

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (ATTILIO RUFFINI)

SUBJECT: VISIT TO U.S. OF DEFMIN RUFFINI

1. VICE CHIEF OF CABINET GENERAL D'AMBROSIO CALLED AT EMBASSY JUNE 21 TO DISCUSS PROGRAM BEING ESTABLISHED FOR VISIT OF DEFENSE MINISTER RUFFINI TO THE U.S. AS GUEST OF SECDEF BROWN. D'AMBROSIO WILL BE TRAVELING TO THE U.S. IN ADVANCE OF VISIT TO MAKE NECESSARY CONTACTS AND FINALIZE ARRANGEMENTS. HE HOPED THERE WAS SOME FLEXIBILITY IN SCHEDULING PROPOSALS UNDER CONSIDERATION TO PERMIT CHANGES THAT WOULD ENHANCE VALUE OF VISIT OF RUFFINI. HE MADE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS.

2. RUFFINI WOULD PREFER TO PLAN ON ARRIVING IN NEW YORK ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, AND DEVOTE THE WEEKEND TO ENCOUNTERS WITH THE ITALIAN COMMUNITY THERE. HE WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN HIS OFFICIAL VISIT IN WASHINGTON AND HAVE HIS MEETINGS WITH SECRETARY BROWN, ON MONDAY SEPTEMBER 11. HE WOULD WISH TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH ITALIAN/AMERICAN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. D'AMBROSIO ASSERTED THAT TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE RUFFINI WOULD PREFER NOT TO BE SEPARATED FROM HIS WIFE MORE THAN THAT MADE ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY BY THE EXIGENCIES OF THE REMAINING SCHEDULE. D'AMBROSIO SUGGESTED THAT THE POST-WASHINGTON PORTION OF THE VISIT MIGHT INCLUDE A VISIT TO

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NORAD AND POSSIBLY THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY AT COLORADO SPRINGS. AS RUFFINI (AND HIS WIFE) ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN SEEING SOMETHING OF CALIFORNIA, A VISIT TO CAMP PENDLETON OR THE NAVY FACILITIES AT SAN DIEGO COULD FOLLOW, AND THEN A VISIT TO SAN FRANCISCO WHERE THE RUFFINIS AND THEIR PARTY COULD END WITH A FREE DAY ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 (AND THE SUBSEQUENT FLEXIBILITY OF A WEEKEND).

3. D'AMBROSIO MADE CLEAR THAT RUFFINI WOULD HAVE LITTLE INTEREST IN A HEAVY SCHEDULE OF VISITS TO MILITARY INSTALLATIONS, THOUGH HE WOULD NATURALLY EXPECT SOME KEY FACILITIES TO BE PUT ON HIS SCHEDULE. THOUGH DETAILS OF HIS VISIT ARE APPARENTLY TO BE COORDINATED BY THE ITALIAN MILITARY ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON, D'AMBROSIO EXPECTS TO DO MOST OF THE PLANNING HIMSELF. THE EMBASSY WILL OF COURSE BE HAPPY TO ASSIST IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE TO ASSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE MINISTER'S VISIT.GARDNER

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